

Residential Hazardous Waste Use, Storage, and Disposal

There are a variety of hazardous materials routinely used in and around our homes including chemical cleaners, pesticides, paints, solvents, lighter fluid, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and other automotive products, wood preservatives and even batteries from our electronic equipment.

Improper disposal and failure to keep hazardous products from rainwater contact may cause surface and groundwater pollution. With so many hazardous compounds present in thousands of households in King County, the cumulative adverse effects of poor usage, storage and disposal practices are potentially severe to our environmental health.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following best management practices (BMPs) or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required when using or storing hazardous wastes at your home.


 1

Store all hazardous materials inside a building or shed or under cover. Do not expose hazardous materials to rainwater that can transport hazardous pollutants to surface and groundwater.


 2

Use products only as specified on labeling directions.


 3

Dispose of and recycle hazardous wastes through the Household Hazardous Waste Program or other recycling programs or businesses, or carefully follow disposal directions on containers of chemicals. There are three fixed hazardous waste collection sites for household hazardous waste in Seattle and King County. In addition, the Wastemobile travels to different areas of King County throughout the year. See <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house> or call the Household Hazards Line at 206-296-4692 for more information.


 4

Never allow hazardous chemicals to be discharged or dumped into storm drainage systems or on to the ground.

OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS

1

Reuse and recycle as much as possible. Someone else may be able to use leftover paints, finishes, cleaning materials, building materials, etc. Contact a neighbor, friend, school, church, or community group to see if your left over materials can be used. The King County Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a good resource for finding uses for your left over materials. Call IMEX at 206-296-4899 or send an e-mail to imex@metrokc.gov. Consult the IMEX Web site for more information, at <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex>.

2

Use the least toxic product available. See <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/alternatives> for information on finding alternatives to hazardous household products.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.